

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the 6th Gds Mecz Div and the
7 Gds Mecz Div.EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 July 1955

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REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 15 and 27 June 1955, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241) in Bernau was occupied by an estimated 2,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia and black-bordered and blue-bordered black epaulets. Up to 7 tanks were seen in the installation. The engineer unit with approximately 8 pontoon, 1 amphibious vehicle, 1 motorboat and 1 crane was stationed on a small lake west of the autobahn, in line with the former Army Clothing Depot I (4244). Landing stages, partial bridges and ferries were built. Vehicles crossed the lake on these ferries. Trucks which carried beams and logs arrived on 25 June.

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2. Traffic by march columns between the installation and the Schoenow training area was very intensive. On 22 June, several columns totaling approximately 500 soldiers marched westward. On 23 and 24 June, major exercises were presumably held in the Schoenow training area. Major troop assemblies, which involved 11 T-34/85 tanks, 4 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 x 120-mm mortars, 1 radio truck and some 40 trucks with soldiers, were seen in the south section of the area. During the night of 23 June, noise of battle was heard from the training area. The exercise continued throughout the day. At about 2330, some 20 tanks, approximately 15 trucks with soldiers and 4 armored personnel carriers left the training area.

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3. On 26 June, 13 medium AA guns and 1 BA-64 armored scout car were seen in the SS-Brieftaubenstation (4243) (homing pigeon station) in Bernau. Some 100 soldiers received instruction on the AA guns.¹

4. Between 12 and 26 June, the Panzer Kaserne (4002) in Bad Freienwalde was varyingly occupied by between 500 and 800 soldiers. The troops, which conducted exercises in the Bad Freienwalde area, were quartered in tent camps. After 16 June, a tent camp was observed in the woods southwest of Koethen, west of Bad Freienwalde. The units, who were quartered there continually conducted advanced combat practices. On 22 June, a column of 3 T-34/85 tanks, 4 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 x 120-mm mortars, 2 x 37-mm AA guns, some 20 trucks and approximately 400 soldiers left the installation toward the Trampe training area. Large scale exercises were held in the area between Trampe, Gersdorf and Tornow. Reports of tanks and AT guns were frequently heard from this area.

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5. On 18 June, a tent camp was determined to be located west of Camen Lake, 8 km west of Bad Freienwalde, east of Gersdorf. Between 19 and 23 June an exercise was conducted in the area east and west of Camen Lake. The exercise involved units from Bad Freienwalde and Eberswalde. A major engineer unit, tank units, AT units and light AA units were observed. The equipment of the engineer unit included at least 12 pontoons, 2 track-laying amphibious vehicles with double-screw drive, 1 three-axis amphibious vehicle, 1 motorboat, and 20 to 30 trucks. Approximately 6 T-34/85 tanks, 3 JS-2 tanks, 4 JS-3 tanks and 2 JSU-122/1 guns were observed with the tank units. On 22 and 23 June, tanks, guns and vehicles reportedly crossed the lake on pontoon ferries. Crossing practices were also conducted at night. About 4 x 37-mm AA guns were employed west of Dannenberg and 6 x 37-mm AA guns were employed north of the Krummenpfehl sheep-farm between Dannenberg and Gersdorf. During the crossing practices, tanks and AT guns took position on the eastern shore of Camen Lake. In the evening of 23 June, the units left toward Eberswalde and Bad Freienwalde.

6. Between 16 and 22 June, units with approximately 35 tanks and other vehicles were apparently quartered in Camp Schoenbocke (3305) in the Forst Tauer training area. Local residents stated that 2 shipments, each with 18 tanks, were unloaded in Lieberose on 15 June. Between 16 and 29 June, the road to Leeskow was permanently blocked. On 25 June, 6 T-34/85 tanks were seen near Lieberose en route toward south. On 29 June, the units left again. The tanks were entrained in Lieberose. The first shipment with 18 tanks allegedly left toward Adlershof. The place of destination of the second train could not be determined. On 30 June, Camp Lieberose was vacant.²

1. Field Comment. According to available information, the Bernau post was occupied as previously by units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div prior to 27 June. As also observed with other divisions, intensive training with all weapons was conducted in the post training area during the second half of June. The 22d Gds Engr Bn of the division conducted special exercises.

2. Comment. Units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div from Bad Freienwalde also conducted increased training near the post. The units were apparently rotated to these exercises. The observation of 2 x 37-mm AA guns, which presumably belong to the 16th Gds Mecz Regt, is worth noting. Joint exercises with units of the division from the Eberswalde post in the Trarze area had frequently been reported. The track-laying amphibious vehicle, which was observed during the crossing practices on Camen Lake, tends to indicate that components of the special amphibious unit of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army from the Schuetzen Kaserne (4342) in Eberswalde also participated. The report fails to indicate whether the other engineer units belonged to the engineer battalion of the above-mentioned division or to the 3d Engr Regt of the army.

3. Comment. The observed tank units were apparently elements of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. a shipment with 18 tanks went from Euerstenwalde to Lieberose on 15 June. On 29 June, it was observed that units of the 24th Gds Mecz Regt returned to Berlin-Marlsdorf. The observation that units of the division were quartered in Camp Schoenbocke is worth noting since the division, so far, has used exclusively the Lieberose training grounds with Camp Jamnitz.

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